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REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are currently pending, of which claims 1, 5, 9, and 10 are independent. Claims 1-5, and 9-10 are currently amended. Reconsideration of the action mailed January 3, 2006 is requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The examiner provisionally rejected claims 1-3 and 6 under nonstatutory-type double patenting as allegedly unpatentable over claims 1-3 of U.S. Patent No. 6,928,611 ("McCully").

The examiner rejected claims 1, 3-5, and 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as allegedly anticipated by Microsoft Word 2000 as shown in screenshots of a character spacing feature ("Word Screenshots"). The examiner rejected claims 2 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over the Word Screenshots in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,501,538 ("Sawada").

Interview Summary

The applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesy of an Interview conducted December 15, 2004. In the interview, in which Applicant's representative Brian J. Gustafson and Examiner Patel participated, the priority claim to U.S. Provisional Patent Application 60/235,260 was discussed. The priority claim was denied in the action mailed September 22, 2005, because the provisional application was filed in a foreign language. The applicant noted that an English language translation was filed in the provisional application. The examiner found the translation in the file history and agreed to grant the applicant's priority claim and issue a new action (*i.e.*, the present action mailed January 3, 2006).

Provisional Double Patenting Rejections

Claim 1-3 and 6 stand provisionally rejected over McCully as nonstatutory-type double patenting. Specifically, independent claim 1 is provisionally rejected over claim 1 of McCully. The applicant respectfully disagrees. Claim 1 recites features not found in claim 1 of McCully. Similarly, claim 1 of McCully recites features not found in claim 1.

Specifically, claim 1 of McCully requires a detailed settings mode and a basic settings mode. The basic settings mode is "for modifying the inter-character spacing amounts using a

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character class relationship table defining a relationship between the character class for the previous character and the character class for the next character.” The detailed settings mode is “for modifying the inter-character spacing amounts directly without using the character class relationship table.” Claim 1 of the present application, however, does not recite a basic settings mode and a detailed settings mode as recited in claim 1 of McCully.

Additionally, claim 1 of the present application recites a dialog box for receiving a user input setting a setting spacing amount between characters that includes displaying an “icon representing the character class for the previous character and an icon representing the character class for the next character.” Thus, icons are provided which represent the particular character classes to which the previous character and the next character belong. Claim 1 of McCully does not recite a spacing amount setter that displays icons representing the particular character classes for the previous character and the next character for a pair of contiguous characters. The applicant respectfully submits that the claim 1 is patentably distinct from McCully and therefore the double patenting rejection should be withdrawn. Claims 2-3 depend from claim 1, thus the double patenting rejection of those claims should be withdrawn for the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim 6 is also rejected over claim 2 of McCully as nonstatutory-type double patenting. Claim 6 depends from independent claim 5, which was not rejected over McCully. The applicant suspects, however, that the examiner intended to reject claims 5-7 over claims 8-10 of McCully, which recited computer program product versions of claims 1-3 of McCully. As such, claims 5-7 are patentably distinct from claims 8-10 of McCully for the same reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1-3.

Section 102 Rejections

Claim 1 stands rejected over Word Screenshots. Claim 1 recites a desktop publishing system. The desktop publishing system includes at least one inter-character-class spacing amount setting table defining inter-character spacing amounts in line composition. The spacing amount setting table defines spacing for a plurality of character classes. Each character class groups one or more similar characters. The spacing amount setting table is used to set inter-character spacing amounts between pairs of contiguous characters according to a character

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class of a previous character and a character class of a next character in each pair of contiguous characters.

The device also includes a means for displaying a dialog box on the display device. The dialog box is for receiving a user input setting a spacing amount between the character class for the previous character and the character class for the next character. The dialog box identifies particular character classes using an icon representing the character class for the previous character and an icon representing the character class for the next character. The icons identify character classes for setting a spacing amount for a particular character class pair.

The examiner states that the Word Screenshots disclose the recited spacing amount setter. The applicant respectfully disagrees. The Word Screenshots represent screenshots captured from Microsoft Word 2000 and show images of a character spacing tab in the font dialog box (*i.e.*, the dialog displayed when a user selects the "font" item from the "format" menu). The character spacing tab allows a user to apply a uniform inter-character spacing amount for one or more selected characters. The user selects an arbitrary spacing amount without regard to any character class to which the characters belong. For example, the user can set a particular point value defining the spacing amount to be applied between the characters.

However, the Word Screenshots do not disclose or suggest character classes. A character class groups similar characters, for example, characters sharing one or more composition attributes. *See* specification page 9, lines 27-31. Instead, the inter-character spacing shown in the Word Screenshots is performed directly and identically on every selected character regardless of any particular character classes to which the characters belong.

The examiner states that reference 440 in FIG. 4 shows character classes of a pair of characters. This is not the case. Reference 440 identifies characters in a preview window of the character spacing tab. The preview window provides a preview of sample text indicating the selected inter-character spacing amount. Thus, in FIG. 4, the sample text is the name of the current font "Times New Roman". The examiner specifically identifies the "N" and "e" characters as a pair of contiguous characters. However, the Word Screenshots do not identify the characters as belonging to particular character classes such that the applied spacing amount is set

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based on the character class of the characters. In the preview pane, the same inter-character spacing amount is applied to all of the characters. The character spacing tab does not disclose or suggest character classes or setting a spacing amount for a pair of contiguous characters according to character class of a previous character and a next character.

The examiner does not specifically identify where the Word Screenshots disclose or suggest an icon representing the character class for the pervious character or an icon representing the character class of the next character for setting a spacing amount between the characters. Character classes are not represented in the Word Screenshots. Thus, no icons identifying particular character classes are disclosed or suggested in the Word Screenshots. Furthermore, no icons specifically representing the character classes of a previous character and a next character are disclosed or suggested by the Word Screenshots. The applicant submits that claim 1, as well as claims 2-4, which depend from claim 1, are in condition for allowance.

Claim 4 stands rejected over Word Screenshots. Claim 4 recites the device as further operable to "display an icon representing a selected character class, among a plurality of classes, for the previous character in the left side display column, and to display an icon representing a selected character class, among a plurality of classes, for the next character in the right side display column." As discussed above, the Word Screenshots do not disclose or suggest icons representing character classes. Furthermore, the Word Screenshots do not disclose or suggest columns of icons where the left side icons represent the character class of the previous character and the right side icons represent the character class of the next character. The applicant submits that claim 4 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 5 stands rejected over Word Screenshots. Claim 5 recites a computer program product that includes instructions to display in the dialog box an icon representing the character class of the previous character and an icon representing the character class of the next character. For the reasons as set forth above with respect to claim 1, claim 5 as well as claims 6-8, which depend from claim 5, are in condition for allowance.

Claim 9 stands rejected over Word Screenshots. Claim 9 recites a text composition spacing amount setting device that includes a dialog box identifies particular character classes

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using an icon representing the character class of the previous character and an icon representing the character class of the next character. For the reasons as set forth above with respect to claim 1, claim 9 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 10 stands rejected over Word Screenshots. Claim 10 recites a procedure for displaying in the dialog box an icon representing the character class of the previous character and an icon representing the character class of the next character. For the reasons as set forth above with respect to claim 1, claim 10 is in condition for allowance.

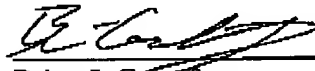
The applicant respectfully requests that all pending claims be allowed.

By responding in the foregoing remarks only to particular positions taken by the examiner, the applicant does not acquiesce with other positions that have not been explicitly addressed. In addition, the applicant's arguments for the patentability of a claim should not be understood as implying that no other reasons for the patentability of that claim exist.

Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 22, 2006


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